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OFF PAGE 15THE NEW YORK TIMES
9 August 1977

Researchers Say Students Were Among 200 Who Took LSD in Tests Financed by C.I.A.

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—Students at Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Emerson College were among some 200 persons who received LSD in experiments secretly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital in the early 1950's, researchers who worked on the studies said today.

The students, both young men and women, were said to have seen paid \$20 each to drink a tall glass of water with the mind-altering drug added and then for 10 to 12 hours to participate in a series of psychological tests. They had been told they were getting LSD and that their reactions would vary.

Some doctors, nurses and attendants at the hospital, now known as the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, also served along with the students as volunteer subjects in the experiments, which ranged over four years and were among some of the earliest studies of LSD in the United States, the researchers reported.

The research was done under grants from the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, a funding mechanism created by the C.I.A. in a 25-year project to develop ways of manipulating human behavior.

Documents and Interviews

The intelligence agency's sponsorship of the work was uncovered by a team of New York Times reporters, sifting through more than 2,000 agency documents and interviewing dozens of past and present intelligence officials and researchers around the country.

Among the data reviewed were newly disclosed C.I.A. documents that discuss at length research on "knock-out type agents." The documents refer to the "K" [unconscious producing] problem and the "production of voluntary sleep."

"There exists within the agency," one 1960 document says, "a continuing requirement from the operations divisions for a substance or substances that will render an individual or animal helpless and immobile, either consciously or unconsciously, until definite control measures can be instituted."

"The instances and situations where such an advantage can be utilized are too numerous to be mentioned."

For Studying Thiols Effects

Another document indicates that the agency paid \$100,000 in the fiscal year 1957 for a study that included an investigation of the "curare-like effects of certain thiols," or chemical compounds analogous to the alcohols.

In 1956, other documents indicate, the agency directed that 60 percent of one \$40,000 contract be devoted to studying "the feasibility of utilizing aerosols as a delivery system for the various psychochemicals" such as LSD. In the end, the C.I.A. decided that spray cans of LSD would not make an effective weapon.

Dr. Max Rinkle, who initiated the LSD research at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital, died five years ago. But others who participated in the work, including Dr. J. Sanbourne Bockoven, now a regional services administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, say they did not know that the intelligence agency was paying for their research and receiving their reports.

In a Senate hearing last week, Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence, said that freshly uncovered financial records showed that 86 hospitals and academic institutions had done research under the agency's mind control project, many of them apparently unwittingly. So far, only a handful of them have been publicly identified.

At the hearing, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, urged Admiral Turner to notify officials of the hospitals and universities involved that their institutions had done research for the C.I.A. Admiral Turner said that he would consider doing so but that he was "torn" by the question.

"I've tried to put myself in the position of the president of one of those universities," he said. "If he was witting, he has access to all this information. If he was not witting, I wonder if the process of informing him might put his institution in more jeopardy than letting him go on as now."

Apparently like much of the work the C.I.A. paid for, the LSD research at Boston was conceived by a doctor who then went looking for financial support.

Dr. Bockoven said he and the others had studied the psychochemical as a possible tool for treating schizophrenia. As pioneers with LSD, they had documented some of the basic reactions and provided the C.I.A. with raw material for use in evaluating a substance the agency thought might be useful as a weapon.

After the LSD study in Boston, which ran from 1952 to early 1957, according to Kyio Morimoto, a sociologist who was

part of the research team and is now associate director of the Bureau of Study Counseling at Harvard, some of the investigators moved as a group to Butler Hospital, a private psychiatric facility in Providence, R. I.

With Alcohol and Tranquilizer

At Butler, among other things, the research team conducted an experiment on staff members with alcohol and the tranquilizer chlorpromazine that was also financed by the C.I.A.'s Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology.

For years, the documents indicate, the agency tried to find ways in which agents could drink large amounts of alcohol without getting drunk and to produce with a pill that could make a drunken agent sober.

Dr. Bockoven said he considered the LSD work at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital to have been "a model of superb, excellent research."

He said the students and staff members who participated had been explicitly recruited as test subjects, had been told they would receive LSD and that reactions varied greatly among individuals from "pleasant" to "unpleasant."

Mr. Morimoto said "a couple of people" had gone into psychotherapy as a result of having participated in the experiments. But Dr. Bockoven said he did not recall anyone who had suffered any untoward consequences from the LSD.

He said test subjects were interviewed "a week or a month"—he wasn't sure which—after the experiments. But as in the other experiments with LSD and a wide range of psychiatric and pseudo-psychiatric techniques under C.I.A. sponsorship, there was no follow-up to determine whether complications had developed.

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